

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An immunostimulant oligonucleotide comprising at least one nucleotide sequence having the formula 5' TTN₁N₂TT 3', wherein T signifies thymine, and N₁ and N₂ are each independently ~~represent~~ adenine, thymine, cytosine or guanine, in which N₁ and N₂ are not both thymines, and wherein the oligonucleotide lacks a dinucleotide CG in which the cytosine C is not methylated.
2. (Previously amended) The oligonucleotide as claimed in claim 1 comprising from 6 to 100 nucleotides.
3. (Previously amended) The oligonucleotide as claimed in claim 1 wherein N₁ represents adenine and N₂ represents guanine.
4. (Previously amended) The oligonucleotide as claimed in claim 1, wherein the 5' TTN₁N₂TT 3' unit is repeated at least once.
5. (Previously amended) The oligonucleotide as claimed in claim 4, wherein the 5' TTN₁N₂TT 3' unit is repeated twice.
6. (Currently amended) The oligonucleotide as claimed in either of claims 4 or 5, wherein the repeated 5' TTN₁N₂TT 3' units are separated by a nucleotide N₃, and wherein when there are more than two units, each N₃ nucleotide ~~which~~ is identical or different from every other N₃ nucleotides and ~~which~~ is selected from A, C, T, and G.
7. (Previously amended) The oligonucleotide as claimed in claim 6, wherein the 5'-most nucleotide N₃ is cytosine.
8. (Currently mended) The oligonucleotide according to claim 1 comprising the sequence 5' TTAGTTCTTAGTTN₃TTAGTT 3' (Seq ID 17), wherein A represents adenine, T represents thymine, G represents guanine and C represents cytosine, and wherein N₃ is A, T, C, or G.
9. (Previously amended) The oligonucleotide according to claim 1 that induces human lymphocyte proliferation.
10. (Previously amended) The oligonucleotide according to claim 1 that induces cytokine secretion.

11. (Previously amended) The oligonucleotide as claimed in claim 10 that induces IL 10 secretion.
12. (Previously amended) The oligonucleotide as claimed in claim 10 that induces γ interferon secretion.
13. (Previously amended) The oligonucleotide according to claim 1 that increases the expression of the activation marker CD86 on human B lymphocytes.
14. (Previously amended) The oligonucleotide according to claim 1 that increases the expression of the cytokine receptor CD25 on human B lymphocytes.
- 15-18. (Canceled)
19. (Currently amended) An immunization composition ~~for human use~~, comprising at least one immunization antigen and at least one oligonucleotide as claimed in claim 1, wherein the immunization composition is to be administered to a human.
20. (Currently amended) A method of stimulating an immune response in a human, the method comprising administering to the human an immunostimulating amount of an immunostimulant oligonucleotide ~~a composition~~ according to claim 1.
21. (Previously added) A method of enhancing a human immune response to an antigen, the method comprising administering an oligonucleotide according to claim 1 to a human carrying the antigen or administering the oligonucleotide before or with administration of the antigen.